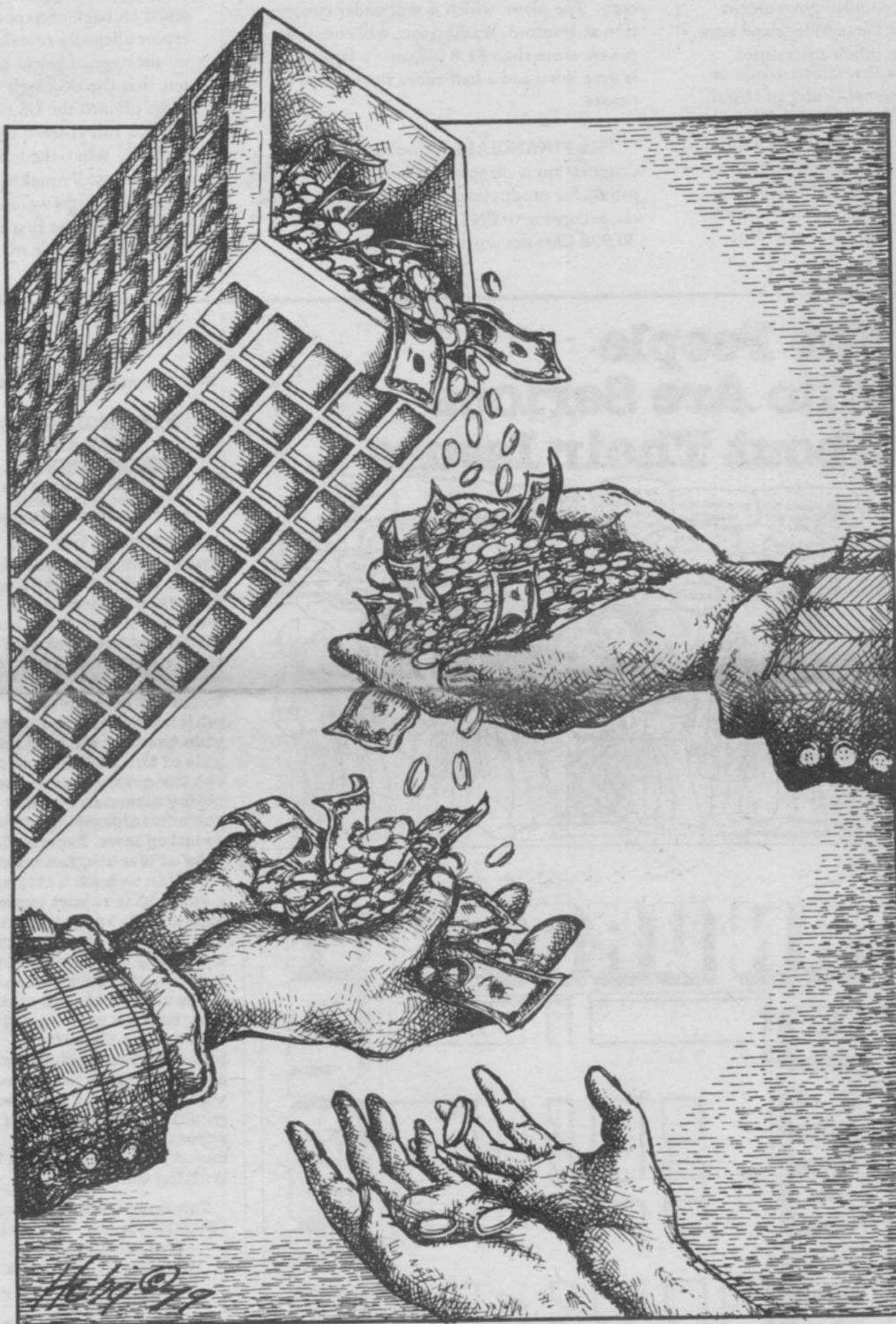


The DC Gazette

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BUCKING THE SYSTEM SINCE 1966

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Weather Report

A RADIATION expert at the University of Pittsburgh says newly-compiled government statistics reveal that the Three Mile Island accident resulted in a rise in infant mortalities.

Radiological physicist Ernest Sternglass, using figures from the National Center of Health Statistics, found that infant deaths in Pennsylvania as a whole rose 32% in the three months following TMI, compared to the quarter immediately before the incident. In the Harrisburg area, the infant death rate jumped 280%. Meanwhile, nationwide, the death rate dropped about ten percent.

THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY Commission reports that its investigators have discovered that between ten and forty percent of the welds on a new 1000-ton reactor in the state of Washington are "visually defective." Furthermore, investigators found air and water pockets in what is supposed to be a two-foot thick concrete shield around the reactor's core. The plant, which is still under construction at Hanford, Washington, will cost rate-payers more than \$1.8 billion -- a figure that is over three-and-a-half times the original estimate.

THE FINANCIALLY troubled Chrysler Corporation is planning to purchase 95 welding robots for production work on the 1981 models, according to PNS. There are currently 30,000 Chrysler workers laid off.

COLUMNIST Jack Anderson claims to have obtained a copy of a secret CIA report which he says proves that the Carter administration was lying about the alleged gas shortage which plagued the country recently. Anderson says that the report was dated September 5th, several months after the administration began blaming the gas shortage on the OPEC cartel and a cutback of exported oil from Iran. The report allegedly reveals that not only was there no shortage of world oil production at the time, but that the US itself was actually importing more oil into the US every month from January to July, then it did in the same period in 1978. When the loss of Iranian supplies was supposedly making the gas lines inevitable, the US imports were 250,000 barrels a day more than in the first quarter of 1978. Despite this, domestic oil production during the

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Tax Commission Report
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University of the
District of Columbia
929 "E" Street, N.W.,
Suite 725
Washington, D.C. 20004

ALSO ANNOUNCING:
Technical Aspects of the District Tax System:
A compendium of papers prepared for the District of Columbia Tax Revision Commission, edited by Michael E. Bell and Robert D. Ebel (574 pages, indexed)

There is a charge for either report.

first three months of 1979 was 150,000 barrels a day less than it was a year ago. Anderson says the CIA report was accompanied by a memo from presidential domestic advisor Stuart Eizenstat to President Carter in which

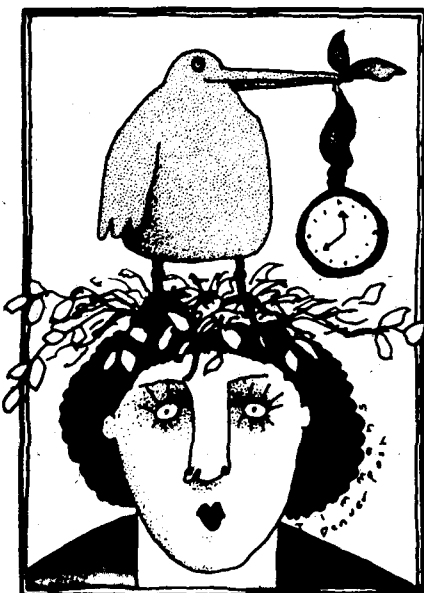
Eizenstat says, "We have a better opportunity than ever before to shift the cause for inflation and energy problems to OPEC. . . With strong steps we can mobilize the nation around a real crisis and with a clear enemy."

Anderson claims that the real villains in the so-called gas shortage were, in fact, big oil companies and the Carter administration, who were lying to the American people.

Apple Pie

A FEW WEEKS BACK, a professor and four University of Massachusetts students noisily demonstrated outside a campus building by brandishing blank picket signs and distributing blank pamphlets to passers-by. Their purpose, they said, was to protest nothing in particular. The five members of a performance arts group claim that protest is an art form and that the experience left them feeling "released."

FOR PEOPLE with problems responding to put-downs like "your mother wears combat boots" help may be on the way. Mardy Grothe and Peter Wylie of the Espousal Center in Waltham, Massachusetts, say that many people do not have the gift of quick repartee when verbally teased and, as a result, feel humiliated. The center offers to teach you how to stand firm instead of a crumbling under verbal assaults or put-down. It costs \$45, it says here. The number is 617-893-3465.



WORST SAFETY SLOGAN of the month: "Have You Belted Your Kids Today?" After reflection, the Maine Transportation Department decided it was in bad taste and is withdrawing the campaign.

A STUDY OF 100 couples who described themselves as happily married found that many of the partners hardly talk to each other. Ray

Birdwhistell of the University of Pennsylvania is an expert in non-verbal communications. He bugged, with the participant's consent, the conversations of happily married couples for a period of two weeks. The median amount of time spent in conversation was 27.5 minutes a week.

ROBERT PRICHARD is a rolfing specialist who prefers dealing with dogs because they are more cooperative and more relaxed than humans. Dogs that wish to be rolfed can be reach Prichard at 415-388-0320.

STRANGEST WORK SLOWDOWN of the month: Members of the police force in a state in southern Brazil are trying to gain pay-raises by refusing to make illegal arrests.

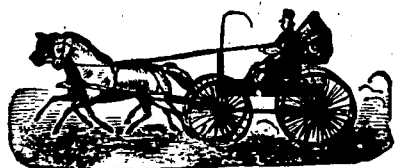
BELGIAN CLIMATOLOGIST Genevieve Woillard says that a study of pollen particles frozen during glacial periods indicates that ice ages can engulf the earth in as short as 20 to 30 years. Ice ages happen about every 15,000 years or so. The last one occurred about 15,000 years back so Woillard thinks the next one is due soon.

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Chuck Stone

SHE MEAN. She don't be playin' when she say do yo maf work. Everybody be finishin' they tesses, but she still don't let nobody split.

According to US District Judge Charles W. Joiner, 80 percent of all black Americans use "Black English" in informal conversation.

Good lord! If that's true, no wonder the brother is still toting barges and lifting bales instead of punching digital systems and tracking computer runs. He can't make himself understood.

This summer Judge Joiner ruled that "Black English" was a legitimate "home language." And that was just about the biggest crock of judicial garbage to await a weekly sanitation collection since *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, 1896.

A group of black kids from an Ann Arbor, Mich., low-income housing project contended that their cultural isolation hampered their learning ability.

Using the 1974 Equal Educational Opportunity Act, which provides for relief for individuals with language barriers, they managed to con — that's right, con — a federal judge into ruling that "Black English" was a legitimate medium of instruction. The judge bought their jiveass spiel (and that's not Black English, that's street talk). He ordered that the Ann Arbor school system spend \$42,000 on 20 hours of training for 25 teachers at the Martin Luther King Elementary School.

What an ironic betrayal of history. These kids attend a school named after one of the most gifted practitioners of the English language, a man who could write in his 1963 "Letter from Birmingham Jail" this awesomely eloquent phrasing:

Just as Socrates felt it was necessary to create a tension in the mind so that individuals could rise from the bondage of myths and half-truths to the unfettered realm of creative analysis and objective appraisal, so must we see the need for nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding.

That is a black man writing the English language as it has been spoken and written since Shakespeare mastered its wondrous sounds. But "Black English" is neither dialect nor language.

It's a people's cognitive surrender to sloth. It's bad pronunciation, worse grammar and the worst method of speaking.

It is the dismal inheritance from lazy-minded parents who don't care enough about their children to insist that they talk with precision and clearly-e-nun-ci-ate-each-word-in-understandable-syntax-so-an-employer-can-understand-them-when-they-apply-for-a-job.

Yet, as Judge Joiner observed, significant numbers of blacks do use the abortive "Black English." You hear it on buses and on the streets.

It's not jive or hip slang that has grammatical coherence: *Check that lame. He told my homie that some dude was hitting on that stone fox, but she told him 'later.'*

No, "Black English" is dropping "th" and substituting a lazy "f" so that "with" becomes

"wif" Verbs disappear. "There were three blind mice" becomes "There three blind mice."

Possessive pronouns are shunned. "Their books" is twisted into "They books."

And "be" is used as if it were an active verb instead of an auxiliary verb. "He be going" substitutes for "He is going." The terribly abused "be" ought to be banned for five years in the black community.

Teaching teachers to communicate in "Black English" doesn't help children learn how to speak properly.

What you end up with is a group of teachers who now know how to talk lousy English.

Even reinforced with similar teaching aids, many teachers today don't teach. They insult.

They are unable to cope with differential cognitive styles, especially among minority and low income pupils. And they have little respect for their pupils' learning anguish.

Implicitly recognizing such callousness,

Last Laugh On Will Rogers

KEN BRESLER

"I am the only known child in History who claims Nov. 4th as my Birthday, that is election day. Women couldnt vote in those days so My Mother thought she would do something, so she stayed home and gave birth to me. The men were all away. I decided to get even with the Government. Thats why I have always had it in for politicians."

—Will Rogers

One hundred years after the birth of Will Rogers the legislative body he called "the Capitol Comedy Co. of Washington, D.C." enacted legislation that referred to Rogers as "wise." Resolutions in the Senate and House of Representatives designating November 4, 1979 as "Will Rogers Day" noted that "it is a fitting occasion to dedicate ourselves to a rebirth of goodwill and public spirit" exemplified by Rogers.

Goodwill? "We are a good-natured bunch

Judge Joiner used that instructional failure to justify his ruling that:

The child may withdraw or may act out frustrations and may not learn to read. A language barrier develops when teachers, in helping the child switch from the home (Black English) language to standard English, refuse to admit the existence of a language that is the acceptable way of talking in his local community.

That's where the judge goes pedagogically astray. Many ghetto kids cuss "they" butts off in everyday conversation.

Should a teacher stand up before a class and begin: "Now, look, m—s, we're going to run this s— down so tight, your a— will dig it whether you want to f— with it or not?"

Rather than lower schools and teachers to the valley of the isolated ghettos, the isolated ghetto must be elevated to the mountaintop of mainstream society.

Philadelphia Daily News

of saps in this country," Rogers wrote. "When Congress is wrong we charge it to habit."

Public spirits? "I didnt know before I got there, and they told me, that Rome had Senators. Now I know why it declined."

To provide material for his columns and performances, Rogers maintained that a subscription to the Congressional Record was preferable to the services of a gag writer. In a relationship that may best be described as "You scratch my back, and I'll stab yours," many of Rogers's Congressional Record-inspired commentaries were inserted in the Congressional Record by Members of Congress. "When a Gentleman quoted me on the floor of Congress the other day, another member took exception and said he objected to the remarks of a Professional Joke Maker going into the Congressional Record," related

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Rogers, attesting to the ambivalence that Congress held for him, at least in the past. "Now can you beat that for jealousy among people in the same line? Calling me a Professional Joke Maker! He is right about everything but the Professional. THEY are the Professional Joke Makers. Read some of the Bills that they have passed, if you think they ain't Joke makers."

Rogers may not be the only Congress-baiter that Congress will honor; bills have been filled to rename a reservoir in Missouri for Mark Twain.

Mark Twain's comment that "there is no distinctively native American criminal class except Congress" is the best-known scurrility he pronounced on the legislative branch, but not the only one. Among his others: "Congress is the most interesting body I have found yet. It does more crazy things, and does them with a graver earnestness, than any State Legislature that exists, perhaps."

"All Congresses and Parliaments have a kindly feeling for idiots and a compassion for them, on account of personal experience and heredity."

"Fleas can be taught nearly anything that a Congressman can."

"Reader, suppose you were an idiot; and suppose you were a member of Congress; but I repeat myself."

Despite his japes and gibes, Mark Twain has been referred to in the Congressional Record as "one of America's greatest humorists and writers." Walt Whitman was similarly cited as the "poet of democracy." In his poem "To the States," Whitman asked, "Who are they, as bats and night-dogs, askant in the Capitol? Are those really Congressmen?"

Why does Congress pay tribute to its detractors? Perhaps it doesn't mind being ribbed. At the beginning of the 95th Congress, Representative Morris Udall wrote an article for The Washington Post (which was reprinted—you guessed it—in the Congressional Record). Titled, "The Congressional Primer," it ended by recalling the farewell address of a retiring Member of Congress to his colleagues: "May the future bring all the best

to you and your family and friends, and may your mother never find out where you work."

Senators and Representatives may also be tolerant when Congress is vilified because apparently they frequently forget that they are Members of Congress. While Congress had an approval rating last fall of 29 percent according to polls, 68 percent of Senate incumbents and 95 percent of House incumbents who sought reelection were successful. With public perception of Congress as an institution and Members of Congress and individual officeholders so dichotomized, it isn't difficult to understand why even incumbents "run against Congress"; why Senator Proxmire would present his Golden Fleece Award in August to Congress for excessive spending—or why Congress seems to love the ones who hurt it.

Will Rogers died in 1935. What would he think now if he knew that Congress had

passed a resolution to commemorate his birthday? Well, once he remarked, "I have read various addresses made on Lincoln's Birthday. Every Politician always talks about him, but none of them ever imitate him." Politicians can't be expected to imitate Rogers, however, even on his birthday. After all, Rogers once described himself as "too proud to speak to a Congressman."

In the Capitol, the bronze figure of Will Rogers—a gift from his native State of Oklahoma—slouches with hands in pockets. He looks amused as if he realizes good-naturedly that Congress, the Capitol Comedy Co. of Washington, D.C., has had the last laugh on him. For Congress passed a resolution honoring Will Rogers, and Will Rogers wasn't around to disparage it.

© Ken Bresler

American Journal

DAVID ARMSTRONG

WITH the rhetoric of the 1980 campaign already flying thick and fast, politicians who would be president are hard at work developing that perfect speech: the one that will play in Des Moines as well as in New Jersey, Los Angeles as well as in Minneapolis. The speech that will play in Peoria.

And, already, the candidates are wondering: What should I say about energy? About the economy? About dealing with Russia and Iran? What words can be calculated to win the hearts and minds of the most voters while offending the fewest? How can I speak in generalities and yet sound specific?

Two Midwestern speech scientists may have the answer: program the speech on a computer.

Most political speeches already sound like they are written by a machine. John Cragan of Illinois State University and Donald Shields of the University of Missouri actually used a machine to write theirs. They polled 60 residents of Peoria, Illinois during the 1976 campaign, fed their responses into an IBM 370 computer, and pieced together the most commonly-recurring phrases to compose a 12-minute whistle-stop speech.

Then they read it to a group of Peorians, who loved it.

The computer speech captured the mood of the electorate, circa 1976, perfectly. It said that America was not wrong in Vietnam, just indecisive. It said that we should get along with Russia and China, but not take any of their guff. It said that America was strong and would come out of its long national nightmare okay.

Cragan and Shields "sent copies of the speech to the Carter and Ford campaigns and challenged them to write a better one," Cragan remembers, "but neither side replied." Evidently, they didn't need to. The computer speech was very close to the real



"GOOD GLORY, GENTLEMEN! IT'S PAUL MCCARTNEY!"

speeches that Jimmy Carter delivered on his way to the White House.

And that, according to Cragan, is the problem. "Politicians look to the polls to see what stands will be safe for them to take. When politicians find an issue that, say, 70 percent of the American people believe in, they'll seem harder than the rock of Gibraltar. There's a lot less risk-taking and willingness to take an unpopular stand than there used to be.

"Campaigns are run by mass media symbol-manipulators whose expertise is in selling commodities, not in running the country. So, once a politician gets elected, and falls short of the unrealistic expectations that the campaign inspired in voters, the people and the media cannibalize him."

Cragan, who used to write speeches for politicians himself, says he teamed with Shields to write the computer speech to reveal how campaign speeches are "manufactured"—

to demystify them, if you will. "Once you know how the rabbit is pulled out of the hat, it loses its magic."

Next spring, Cragan and Shields plan to return to Peoria, to poll 200 residents for a series of computer speeches for the 1980 campaign. The new speeches will cover energy, the economy and foreign policy, according to Cragan. The 1976 speech dealt only with foreign policy.

It will be interesting to see how the people of Peoria have changed, if they have. In 1976, they narrowly selected what Cragan calls a "power politics drama" over a Cold War version of foreign policy. A neo-isolationist scenario drawn up for the sampling ran a distant third. Power politics, Cragan explains, employs a mixed bag of military force and negotiation by super-diplomats—a la Henry Kissinger—to maintain world order. The Cold War scenario is more militaristic and interventionist, while the neo-isolationist position is somewhat retiring.

With the apparent lickings the United States has taken in foreign affairs these past few years, the prospect of a Cold War revival seems to be heating up. If so, American views on energy and the economy may also reflect a more aggressive mood, probably accompanied by a greater willingness to blame foreigners for America's ills.

After all, as a computer put it back in 1976, "The U.S. is not a crippled giant. We have not lost confidence in ourselves. We are a proud democratic nation that must play a major role of leadership in world affairs. I trust you will agree that my foreign policy is based on a realistic and mature view of how to maintain world peace."

Sure. Now let's go get those oilfields, bucko.



Paul Krassner

Television censored the central image of *Coming Home*, where Jon Voight gives off-screen head to Jane Fonda, who moans with such pleasure that any parent would be automatically ashamed to explain to a child how a paraplegic could be a more passionate lover than somebody who can still get an erection and walk at the same time.

Like Bruce Dern, for example, whom that same child could watch walking into the ocean to drown himself as the film's final scene. Obviously, going down for the third time is a more acceptable mode of behavior for kids to emulate than going down for the first time.

Krassner Predicts:

- Tom Snyder will smoke a joint right on TV just to prove a point to the network.
- Rosalynn Carter will establish the Mary Jo Kopechne Memorial Food Program for Cambodia.
- Bob Dylan will be deprogrammed by Ted Patrick.
- Terrorists will seize the remaining smallpox bacteria.
- Robin Williams will threaten to quit Mork and Mindy unless the U.S. Navy is replaced as a sponsor.
- Eldridge Cleaver will arrange to have a pair of custom-tailored trousers made for Reverend Sun Myung Moon.
- Madagascar will develop its own H-bomb.
- Al Capp will be the defendant in America's first posthumous paternity suit.
- Art Linkletter will sell a life insurance policy to Timothy Leary.
- The nude photos of men in Playgirl magazine will begin showing vein.
- The entire Supreme Court will join the Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church.
- Tom Hayden will give up acting and go back to political activism.
- Withholding orgasm will become a new fad.
- Everything made of plastic will melt during a heat wave.
- Negative ions will be found to cause cancer in mice.
- A jealous husband will sue a vibrator company for alienation of affection.

- Phil Donahue will sprain his ankle while disco roller skating.
- Larry Flynt and George Wallace will have a wheelchair race for charity.
- The trend of situation comedies becoming serious will result in tear tracks so the viewing audience will know when to cry.

Letters

BEGINNING TO FEEL ALONE. . . .

I greatly appreciated your publishing "A Few Kind Words for the White American Male." I was beginning to feel that I was alone in feeling isolated from the noble human movements of the 60s and 70s. At a recent Holly Near concert, I sat through 90 minutes of songs and rhetoric celebrating homosexuals, lesbians, American Indians, deaf people, cripples, women, Latinos, Blacks and other minority or "persecuted" groups. Not a single word was said on behalf of the white males who happened to be in the audience participating in what was billed as an anti-nuclear rally and concert. Right on Sam Smith!

PAUL OBIS

Editor

Vegetarian Times

Oak Park, Ill.

TIES WEREN'T THERE

In Joel Dreyfuss's article (Nov '79) he refers to Black-Jewish ties which he describes as historic and "fragile" and the rupture of which are currently decried by various prominent Americans. These ties are, in fact, nothing more than wishful thinking. American Blacks and American Jewry present a rather interesting example of what was mistakenly referred to as the American Melting Pot and latterly (and more accurately) as a reflection of our social pluralism.

Jews impacted the Black community in America when the great migration waves washed ashore at the end of the nineteenth century and the inevitable struggle for subsistence, wages and jobs boiled at the bottom of the economic ladder. Blacks competed, unsuccessfully, with

the Irish and the Jews and the Italians (among others) for the unskilled jobs, the menial work, whatever they could get in the mills, the sweatshops and the construction sites. There wasn't then and there isn't now any common ground between American Blacks and Jews of the dimensions suggested by Mr. Dreyfuss upon which a bridge of understanding can be built.

On the contrary, in the last twenty years two quite significant phenomena have taken place which work to push American Blacks and Jews into distant corners, if not coldly hostile camps: the growth and development of the state of Israel which has fastened a powerful grip on the emotions of American Jews; and a powerful tide of Black cultural awareness among Black Americans. And here we approach the inner core of the current antipathy between the two groups. For one must be sensitive to the Black search for roots [with] understanding and appreciation of the fact that the forbears of our Black citizens were undeniably Africans. Now join with this the additional fact that the most clearly identifiable religious persuasion of most of the African continent is that of Islam. Now we may more fully appreciate the strong growth in America of various Black Muslim sects; the adoption by many Blacks of Arabic names like Muhammed Ali, Kareem Abdul Jhabbar etc; the popularity of African style dress and the sudden explosion of Black travel to the African continent.

So it is but a short step for modern Black America to arrive, at the least, to an understanding and sympathy for the Arab (read African) position in the Middle East and, at the most, a strong, vocal denunciation of American Jews's support of Israeli policies. Again, there never were "historic ties" as Mr. Dreyfuss suggests to bind these two groups of Americans but there are, in fact, deep-seated emotional forces at work pushing them apart. It remains now for the leaders, the influencers,

(Please turn to page 11)

The Last Colony

NO EQUITY DOWNTOWN

LET'S SEE if I've got it straight. If I were to go down to the District Building and lay a few thousand bucks on a city official in order to speed city approval of my favorite downtown development project, that would be called a bribe.

If, on the other hand, I give this same city official a ten percent equity in the development in order to help win approval of the project this would be known as affirmative action.

At some point in the course of the debate over black equity in publicly-subsidized downtown development, the mayor should explain to us the difference. I contributed to the mayor's campaign, too, and I would hate to think that I was missing out on an opportunity to reap some return on my investment simply out of an antiquated notion of political ethics.

It has all gotten rather confusing. The mayor, who ran as a reform candidate, seems to be citing Mayor Daley as precedence on the one hand and suggesting, on the other, that he (as the Post described it) "saw no reason to exempt city appointees from participation in such projects because Washington has a reputation for clean local government. 'So far, we've not had any corruption in this government,' Barry said." Looked at one way, it's all okay because it happens every place else and looked at another way it's okay because it can't happen here.

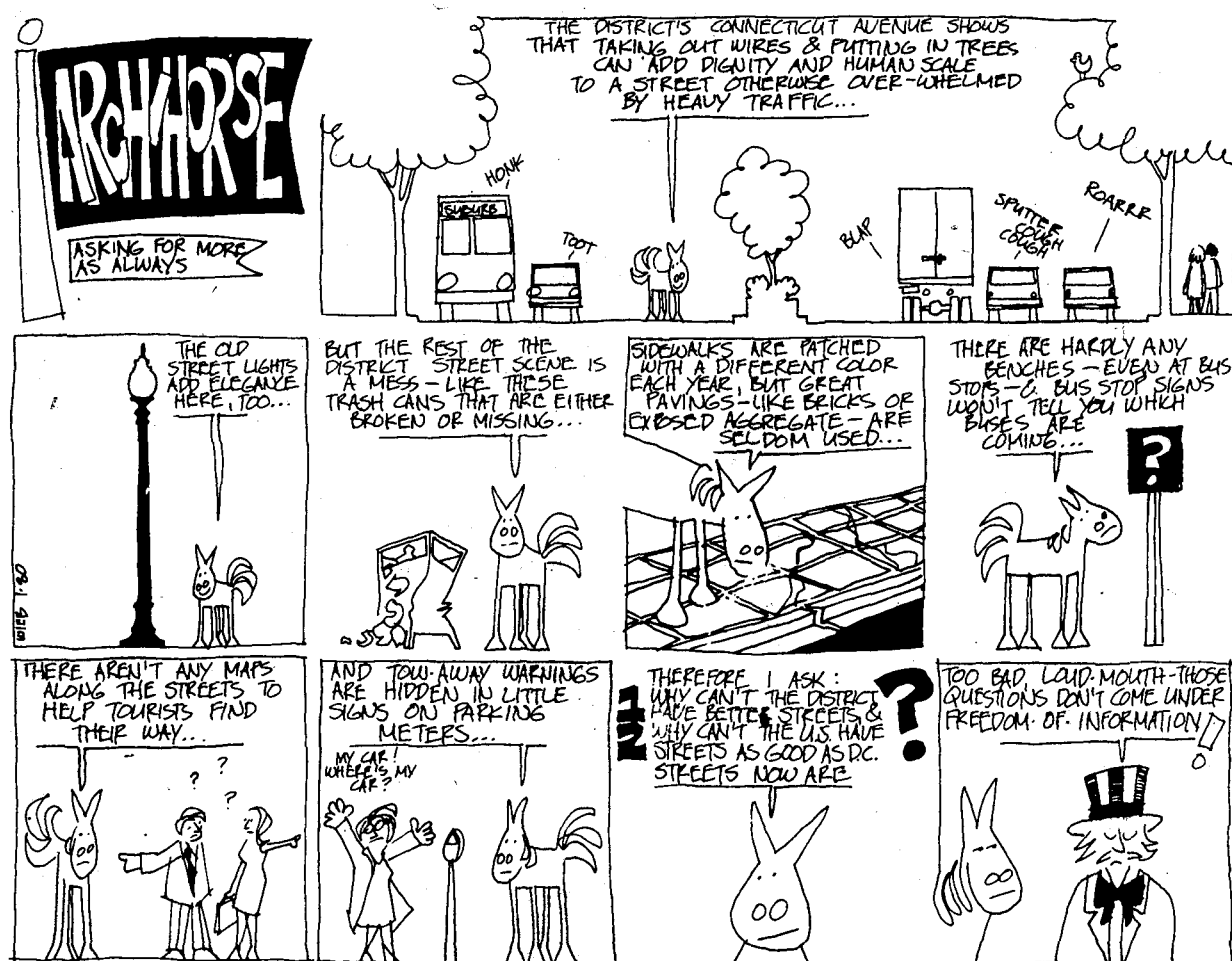
Neither aspect of Barry's moral shizophrenia washes. It makes no more sense for the mayor to defend private profit from public position on the grounds of its pervasiveness than it would have, a decade ago, for him to have defended racial discrimination on the grounds that "everybody does it." Part of the purpose of politics, presumably, is to make some progress.

As for Barry's statement about the lack of corruption here, I doubt that even he believes that.

Although the mayor would like for us to concentrate on the racial characteristics of those receiving the equity interests, their public position is the truly important point.

Ruby McZeir chairs the Zoning Commission; Leonard McCants chairs the Board of Zoning Adjustment; Larry Williams is a member of the ABC Board; James Hudson, Willie Leftwich and Chester Davenport are the city's bond counsels. As Hudson summed it all up rather nicely, "You don't have to put any money in the deal; all you need is the ability to swing the deal." That ability comes in at least in some part from the powerful positions these people hold. Even if one, for some obscure reason, decided that we needed an affirmative action program for black lawyers it would have been possible to have one without such a pungent odor of conflict of interest.

Further, it wasn't just any old equity that they got. The equity comes in part from the public. The land on which these developments will sit was purchased with public funds, it was assembled through public action, and the developers were selected as a public decision. It is not merely a private matter what a developer



does with his equity; it is a matter of public policy.

The Gazette has argued for many years that the whole manner in which agencies like the RLA and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation function is corrupt in its basic premise; they use public funds and public power to benefit a few people at the expense

of the public good. If nothing else, the current issue has revealed the degree to which the entire redevelopment program is ripping off the city. If a developer can afford to give away 15-30% of equity in his project and still make a handsome profit, the gross profit margin is clearly obscene.

But this fundamental criticism of redevelopment policies has received little support from those in power - including the Washington administration, the Washington Post and Barry himself. When Barry says, "What people may be reacting to is that black people are now playing the same game that other people have been playing for the past 100 years," he is not talking about the ordinary white citizen of DC. He is talking about a select group of people who have found in redevelopment, rezoning and other schemes an easy way to make a lot of money. This group has been coddled by black politicians including Barry - witness his efforts on behalf of the convention center. It is unfair to pawn this off as a racial issue when it really involves merely the traditional incestuous relationship between those in political power and those with economic power.

Despite the efforts to lay racial overtones on the current matter, high-level hustling has been one of the city's most thoroughly integrated activities. The current scandal is just one more chapter in a sad story that goes back at least two decades: a development policy that allows too few to make too much at too great a public cost and disruption.

What's sad about all this is that the mayor and others are satisfied with a corrupt development policy as long as blacks are involved. Barry not only wants to continue the policy but enshrine it as an act of civil rights. He doesn't want to end a system that has been inequitable to the ordinary black and white citizens of this city for years. He just wants to let some of his buddies in on the deal. The rest of us, black and white, will continue to suffer. - SAM SMITH

CLASSIFIED

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ANTI-NUCLEAR/ PRO-SAFE ENERGY T-SHIRTS, BUTTONS, BUMPERSTICKERS, RECORD BOOKS, FRISBEES (designed by movement activists; printed by union shops). Free catalog. Kate Donnelly, Box 271-DC, New Vernon, NJ 07976

THE COAST ALLIANCE is looking for a secretary with excellent typing skills to work mornings, 5 days a week, from 9 am to 1 pm. If interested, please call Gray at 466-7260.

JAN: Your voice is like springtime; your hash is the best; your pad is terrific and you know the rest. Please call. Archie.

BILL: You should know better. Mildred G.

WILDWOOD INN: Take the break you need, so you can come back and do what needs to be done. We're a small, inexpensive, old-fashioned bed-and-breakfast country inn in the heart of New England. Informal, aware atmosphere - a far cry from corporate Hiltons. Jogging, tennis, biking, antiques, fun restaurants, old-fashioned relaxing. We'll spoil you so you can return to work with new energy. Brochure, reservations: 121 Church St., Ware, MA 01082 (near Boston, Springfield, Amherst, Hartford, Conn. airport) 413-967-7798

DC EYE

BARRY ADMINISTRATION ATTACKS REFERENDUM RIGHT: In its effort to appease its developer contributors by building a convention center no matter what the cost, the Barry administration has gone into court to stop a referendum on the issue. But far from dealing with the center alone, the city's argument, if upheld, would severely limit the right of the DC citizens to hold referenda on capital projects. In the city's view, once Congress had authorized any money for such a project, such as for a feasibility study, citizens could not overturn the project by referendum. Said the lawyers fighting the center: "The District's argument would as a practical matter eliminate the right to sponsor initiative and referendum elections on capital projects."

RENO ROAD PROGRESS: As we go to press, citizens fighting for less and slower traffic on the 34th Street-Reno Road corridor are reporting some progress in negotiations with the city. Mayor Barry personally inspected the situation and a subsequent meeting with City Administrator Elijah Rogers and Transportation Director Douglas Schneider found these two city officials arguing — with Rogers siding with the citizens. One participant described Schneider as "patronizing, condescending and arrogant," but we're told that he is bowing to Barry's and Roger's more pro-citizen views.

METRO MAKES LITTLE DENT IN AUTO TRAFFIC: According to Council of Government figures, Metro is bringing more people into town to work but this is resulting in only a slight decrease in auto traffic. Since 1975, inbound morning auto traffic has only dropped three percent and this decline is not likely to hold as Metro-inspired development is completed. If you accept Metro's original premise that it was designed to get the cars off the streets, the current cost is running about \$800,000 for each car left home over the course of a year.

INSURANCE INDIFFERENCE AT CITY HALL: At presstime, Mayor Barry's administration was still without a permanent insurance commissioner. Barry and his staff have been approached on numerous occasions to appoint a pro-consumer insurance commissioner but they have been dragging their heels. The issue is important because, as Ron Landsman recently pointed out in a memo on the subject: "First, standard insurance is simply not available for many citizens who,

by any objective standard, are entitled to it. Second, much of the insurance that is available is too expensive and sometimes simply unaffordable. Finally, consumers cannot get reliable, comparative information on any kind of insurance so they cannot effectively shop around."

SERVICES FOR WOMEN: Wider Opportunities for Women (638-4868) offers a variety of career guidance services for women, a career library and individual career counseling.

MUSEUM OF CORRECTIONAL HISTORY BEING FORMED: Several Department of Corrections workers are collecting artifacts and documents for a museum of correctional history. The museum, to be located in the Correction Department's Training Academy has already rounded up such items as old log books of the US Jail, the Almshouse, Washington Asylum and more recent institutions, a small collection of old handcuffs and restraining gear; contraband items removed from prisoners; and an old gate lock from the Federal Penitentiary that used to be located near Fort McNair.

SICK FISH NEEDED: Dr. Frank Hetrick and other marine scientists at the University of Maryland are looking for sick fish from the Chesapeake Bay. They are doing sick fish research (sic). Things to look for are external sores, tumors or unnatural growths, bleeding or strange behavior like swimming slowly near the surface. If you catch such a fish put it on ice (but not dry ice) or freeze it as quickly as possible. Then call Dr. Hetrick's office at 454-5411.

MUSSELS VS. OYSTERS: Meanwhile, over in the Potoamc, mussels are invading the river, clinging to oyster shells and potentially endangering the oyster crop. Scientists are calling it an "infestation."

COLLEGES RUN BY NEW BREED: We don't know if it will make the staff at UDC feel any better, but they are not alone in complaining about manager-types fouling up education. Writing in a recent issue of Education magazine, philosophy professor David Stewart says that the central question in higher education in the coming decade is how to rid colleges of their new rules: "a new breed of

BEHIND THE BUDGET

The District of Columbia appears to be heading toward serious financial difficulties within the next four to five years. By October 1984, there is a real possibility that the debt ceiling for borrowing funds will have been reached, thus causing delays or stoppages of work on needed major bridge, street and sewer repairs. In addition to capital debt problems, city services may face cutbacks due to rapidly growing interest payments on borrowings, Metro subsidies, retirement benefits contributions, a slowing in the growth of revenues and continued reduction in the Federal payment. All of this implies either serious reduction in the maintenance of the city's physical inventory, an increase in taxes or the Federal payment, or some combination of all three.

According to a GAO report published in April of this year, the District will have a total accumulation of long-term debt to the U.S. Treasury of \$2.55 billion by FY 1985. The report indicated that the District may come close to the debt ceiling established by Congress in the Home Rule Act; that there is no priority ranking of capital projects and that project costs are often underestimated. Our debt problems may be worse than indicated by the GAO since their estimates of future debt levels are based on the District government's projection of capital borrowings and cost estimates of current and future projects. The reason for questioning these estimates are derived from the report itself. The GAO claims, based on a sample of 10 recently completed capital projects, that the District has under-estimated final project costs by an average of 35% with great variation among projects. If we assume that projects under construction, or future projects such as the \$100 million convention center, experience just 20% cost overruns the outstanding debt will reach \$2.8 billion by the end of Sept., 1985. Accordingly, the amount of money which will have to be appropriated from the operating budget to service this debt will approach \$225 million per year. The Home Rule Act limits such debt payments to 14% of adjusted revenues in any single fiscal year. Adjusted revenues are defined as equaling total revenues including the Federal payment minus contributions to pension funds and some other minor items. The debt payment ceiling by the end of FY 1985 will be \$241 million. Assuming no further growth in the number or costs of capital projections we will hit the ceiling. Should this occur the city will

not be able to float bonds for mortgage assistance or obtain matching money for any further capital improvements.

Another serious financial problem the District faces involves rapidly growing Metro subsidies. District subsidies will have increased from \$41 million in FY 1979 to a whopping \$73.5 million in FY 1981 — an increase of 79% in just two years! While the District Department of Transportation's budget has grown from \$84.4 million in FY 1979 to \$111.7 million in the proposed FY 1981 budget, the budget has actually declined by \$5.5 million over this period if Metro subsidies are subtracted out. When inflation is considered, one wonders what is to happen to city services supplied by DOT next year? It should be noted that the above subsidy figures to Metro do not include the District's share of construction money (\$20 million) for the next fiscal year.

One last note on the proposed budget. The City is required to propose a balanced budget to Congress (except for capital borrowings). Like all other budgets, the FY 1981 budget request is balanced if we obtain a Federal payment of \$300 million and if the Mayor receives \$22 million in new revenue authority (including the sale of \$10 million worth of surplus school property and an increase in parking fines). The other big "if" is the estimate of expected tax revenues predicted for 1981. It would be useful, in future budgets or in separate published documents, to discover if budgets ever end up balanced. The evidence available suggest that this is not occurring as required by the Home Rule Act. For example, the Washington Star recently reported that the District was likely to have a deficit in the FY 1979 budget of \$15 to \$50 million. In another study published in 1978 by the D.C. Municipal Research Bureau, it was claimed that there was a deficit of \$72.9 million in 1976 and \$43.8 million in 1977. In addition, the Council's Committee on Finance and Revenue has issued a statement claiming the city will have an operating deficit of approximately \$250 million by FY 1984. No one knows how to reconcile these figures. It is hoped that the new accounting systems required by Congress will reveal the true nature of these accounts.

—JACK PHELAN in the Capitol Hill
Restoration Society newsletter

administrator-managers." He calls faculty influence in university policy a myth and recounts how minor salary increases, a loss of voice in the selection of academic department chairs and a growth in administrative bureaucracies have combined to diminish faculty members' power through the seventies. "In times past," he wrote, "deans and academic administrators were faculty colleagues. But all this has changed." The ultimate control of American colleges has passed to a class of managers who have little knowledge of teaching or intellectual curiosity. The "new breed" shares its powers only with the politicians, who frequently determine college budgets. Stewart, by the way, teaches at Ohio University and not, as you might imagine, UDC.

MORE ON BARRY'S BUILDMORE BALLROOM: The nonsensical figures concerning the convention center continue to pour out. Along with his budget, Hizoner presented a report on the center that included the "spin-off" tax revenues already being created from convention center-related projects. The developments planned, underway or completed range all the way from Georgetown to the Southwest. The Quality Inn in Georgetown, for example, is being listed as a convention center spin-off. So are a number of projects in the Pennsylvania Avenue Development area. It raises an interesting question: If these developments are the result of the convention center plans, why did we need the absurdly expensive and disruptive PADC plan? If Blackie Auger and the Marriotts were going to start building as soon as a convention center was underway, why did we have to rezone the West End as well? The net conclusion one must draw from Barry's figures is that either they justify the convention center and there was no justification for the PADC and the West End rezoning or vice versa. Actually, there's a third possibility: that none of it makes much sense.

CENTER CONSULTANT IS BIG CENTER 'SPIN-OFF': As part of his listing of convention center-related projects, Barry claims that the Quadrangle Development Corporation site at 14th & Pennsylvania will produce over \$6 million in spin-off revenues or 14% of all spin-offs cited. Quadrangle is the sibling corporation of Gladstone, the center consultants who told us we had to build the damn thing in the first place. We keep pointing this out, but none of the press biggies seem interested in the slightest. This is precisely the sort of thing that lends credence to black arguments that nobody minds white development rip-offs. In a less morally insensitive town, this would be a major scandal.

DC HAS A FEW FRIENDS OUT THERE: The Wisconsin legislature added to its approval of the DC constitutional amendment a call for Congress to end "the sham of partial home rule" for the city. When this language was added in the Wisconsin lower house, amendment lobbyists from DC -- in their best colonial manner -- denounced it as a plot to defeat the amendment. The state senate, however, promptly voted 28 to 4 for the amendment along with the bit about ending partial home rule. Even if Walter Fauntroy doesn't care about full-self-government, it's nice to know the folk in Wisconsin do. . . . And up in Massachusetts, the *Berkshire Eagle* also sounded less namby-pamby than *Water* and his friends, editorializing that "A US territory that has neither representation in Congress nor final decision-making power over the use of its own tax dollars is an oppressed colony indeed."

A LOOK AT DC'S ALLEY DWELLINGS: The latest issue of *Landscape* magazine has an interesting article by James Borchert on Washington's old alley dwellings. Cost is \$4.50 from *Landscape*, PO Box 7107, Berkeley, CA 94707. Ask for Vol. 23, Number 3.

NOT THE GAZETTE BUT . . . : Roses to Alan Grip for attempting the impossible, and sometimes succeeding. Grip has managed to produce a city hall newspaper that is occasionally readable. In amongst the dreary recitation of processes, mayoral puffery and other familiar aspects of this literary genre is some solid information and some interesting articles. In the most recent issue there's a "Diary of a Consumer Sleuth," a history of the Recorder of Deeds office and even an article on City Administrator Elijah Rogers's refusal to take leave done up in best Washington Post style by "Milton Coleperson." One of the City Hall New Times's other reporters, Marion Barry, needs a little help with his style and his facts, but even Barry shows promise. He only has his photo in the paper four times (one less than the Pope) in 16 pages. This, for a politician, is restraint. It is refreshing to see an in-house journal of any sort beginning to show such confidence that the workers already know what their leader looks like.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: Therapy sessions for Vietnam vets at the Northern Virginia Psychotherapy Center (356-3111). . . . Information on fees, services and practices of more than a thousand DC lawyers available at the DC Bar, 1426 H St. NW. No charge. . . . DC Feminist Alliance meetings monthly at All Soul's Church. Call Nan Hunter at 783-3410. . . . Fascinating survey of local food stores in the new issue of Washington Consumers Checkbook. \$5.45 from Checkbook, Suite 406, 1518 K NW, DC 20005. . . . Participants needed for a documentary film on the issue of children and divorce. Seeking recently divorced or separated parents to talk in a filmed interview about divorce-related conflicts that have affected their children. Participants will be compensated. Call Nancy Baer at 333-3639.

BARRY'S PROSECUTOR PROPOSAL DANGEROUS: Barry's call for a local prosecutor appointed by the mayor sounds like a step towards home rule, but it is fraught with peril. Most district attorneys throughout the country are elected -- and with good reason. Not only should the city's prosecutorial policy be subject to electoral debate, but one of the jobs of the DA is to watch out for corruption in city hall. A short glance at the history of the city's dismal Corporation Counsel's office will tell why you don't want an attorney general who is under the thumb of the mayor. People interested in true home rule should go to the mat on this one.

SUN COMES BACK TO SORRENTO: Members of the Solar Coalition were studying last month showing residents of the Sorrento Building at 18th & Kalorama Sts.



WHILE Transportation Director Douglas Schneider hassles minor traffic violators with his towing program and tries to find some way to pay for the Metro disaster, low-cost and efficient transit programs continue to be ignored under the Barry administration as they were under the previous one. The potential for light rail transit is given short shrift, ways of improving bus flow are overlooked, pedestrians are harassed by the police, taxi drivers are underpaid and bicyclists are left to the mercies of the street. Bicycling is, in fact, the most energy efficient mode of transportation -- better even than walking. One bike commuter recently wrote the Post that over the past six years he had saved \$3300 in gas and in parking fees. Further, increasing the opportunities for bike commuting would reduce the need for parking and cut down on pollution. The mayor's reaction: His administration would "urge persons to be courteous to bike-riders and pedestrians." A form of transport that is 10-40 times as efficient as motorized movement deserves far more than that. (Leonard Cohen photo)

NW how to solarize. They built a solar wall with the tenants' aid and helped to weatherize apartments.

FUEL CO-OP FORMED: The DC Fuel Co-op last month was in final negotiations with AP Woodson, a major independent oil company, to provide fuel oil to co-op members at a percentage discount from the market price. The idea has been used in Canada but this may be the first example in the US. The Co-op contacted 51 oil companies but AP Woodson was the only one to cooperate. For info call the co-op during the day at 265-9399.

UM-UM GOOD PROMOTION: We know it's a corporate gimmick but we can't keep ourselves from telling you that if the Oakcrest School, 4101 Yuma Street, collects 26,050 labels from Campbell's Soup, Beans, Tomato Juice, V-8, Swanson Canned Foods and Franco-American products by Feb. 22, the Campbell Soup Company will provide the school with a new overhead projector and a portable sound system. You can give your labels to an Oakcrest student or drop them off at the school. Now if Mobil would just keep our tank full for 26,050 tear sheets of their op-ed ads. . . .

TIME RUNNING OUT ON RHODES TAVERN: It may have run out by the time this appears, in fact. But if you'd like to save downtown's oldest commercial building let your favorite, or least favorites, city officials know about it now.

WHAT'S HAPPENING CONT'D: The city's Energy Hotline needs volunteers. Call Sharon Cook, 727-1800. . . . An holistic health support group is being formed in DC. The group will be based on self-help, with no professionals involved, and will deal with all aspects of wellness as well as helping members contend with control of smoking, weight reduction, reducing worry and practicing better nutrition. Information on meeting plans can be obtained by calling 737-9357 on weekdays. . . . Dave Clarke has announced a series of meetings on proposed revisions of the DC Criminal Code. Hearings will be held in all of the wards during January and February. For a copy of the hearing schedule call Dave Clark's office at 724-8138. . . . The Northern Virginia Hotline needs volunteer listeners. The next training session starts Jan. 8. Call 527-4077. . . . City Garden is a new food co-op in the Adams-Morgan, Mt. Pleasant, Columbia Heights area. It currently operates a pre-order buying club and hopes to open a food store soon. Members are welcome. Call Dan or Phil at 234-3440. . . . The Travelers Aid Society needs volunteers for its service desk at Union Station. Call Beverly Aiken or Ann Ingram at 347-0101. Free booklet on energy saving available from Washington Gas Light. Call 750-1000. . . . The DC Tenants Survival Guide is free from the Citywide Housing Coalition. . . . Campus Explorations offers chartered bus trips to college campuses, guided tours, meetings with college personnel, overnight accommodations and trip insurance. Call 654-8400.

FROM THE SECRET FILES OF JOSIAH X. SWAMPOODLE: Why does our director of Human Resources get the Wall Street Journal delivered to his office paid for by city funds? Is this where the department gets its ideas? . . . At a recent convention center condemnation hearing, attorneys asked 60-odd potential jurors whether any 'were opposed to the convention center.' Five stood and were excused. The next question was whether anyone was for the center. No one stood. . . . Wonder who has been going around telling people that the convention center is going to be just like the Capital Centre. . . . Why is the IRS looking for someone to give its staff assertiveness training? Seems redundant.

"My Fellow Investors"

PETER HARNIK

NOW that all of us are about to become investors in Chrysler Corporation, we've really got to figure out what kind of policies we would like the company to pursue. After all, for billion and a half dollars Lee Iacocca will have to at least return our phone calls, so we'd better know what to tell him when he does.

This is what I'm planning to say:

"Hi, Lee. Thanks for calling me back. I know things are hectic, but I just wanted to say how pleased I am to be a member of the Chrysler team. Until now I've only been part owner of a collection of dilapidated city bus companies and a pretty pathetic railroad, but an auto company! That's real class!

"Now here's what I'd like you to do—are you writing this down? First of all, most important, I want you to meet all the EPA clean air standards for all your 1980 cars. No more stalling, no more lobbying against the regulations. In fact, now that I'm thinking of it, could you please fire your entire Washington lobbying staff? That'll save us a lot of money.

"What do you mean, 'no'? Do you want the money or not? You don't expect us to give you money to build smoke-belching gas guzzlers, do you? I didn't think you did.

"Secondly, I want safer cars,—better bumpers and air bags. Also, I want cars that are cheaper to fix. No more designing back lights so that I have to buy a whole new fender if the bulb burns out, all right?

"Of course that'll take retooling! That's why we're helping you! Your whole company needs retooling. What do you think the money is for?

"Oh, and while you're retooling, could you please produce a small, light, electric vehicle for city and suburban use? I know you're still

partial to big cars but—I don't know exactly how to break this to you—the rest of us aren't. You're still hung up on calling cars things like 'Ramcharger' or 'Magnum XE' while most of us would be happy to get across town in a 'Muffin' or a 'Daisy.'

"Lee, are you still there? Lee? You taking this down? O.K., now, about your advertising. Frankly, I'm sick of seeing four-wheel-drives racing across the desert, or sexy blondes running their fingertips across chrome. How about an advertising campaign that actually tells people how to do their own simple repairs like changing plugs and tires, checking their air filters, things like that? Or how about a series of tips on safe and defensive driving? Or what about suggestions on how people can drive less—car pooling, consolidating shopping trips, bicycling, etc.? That's how to make a useful ad!

"What do you mean 'This is a lot for a billion'? Do you know anyone else crazy enough to give a cent to a company as badly managed as Chrysler? Oh, which reminds me.

I hope you don't take this personally, but under the circumstances, I think your salary is a bit too high. I mean, \$350,000 is more than we can afford. Would 50 thou plus a free membership at the Y be all right?

"Now, lastly, you've got to do something about your board. As of the bailout you've got 220 million new investors and many of them just feel like they aren't being represented by your predominantly white, male, rich, middle-aged board. See if you can't get a taxi driver, a black working mother who rides the bus, and maybe a garage mechanic. Also, I think it would be nice to have a Chrysler assembly-line worker and a toll booth collector.

"Oh you have another call? Just one more thing, quickly. I know this is kind of silly, but it really drives me crazy to wait until mid-October to see all the latest car models. Do you think we investors could get a sneak preview of the new cars before they come out? Please? For an extra \$50 million?"

Exploring Space; Discovering Ourselves

ART KLEINER & PATRICK MARSHALL

TEN years after Neil Armstrong left mankind's first footprint in outer space, the American love affair with space research has reached a point of middle-age apathy. A recent survey cited by NASA shows that the American people believe the space program costs more than the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and produces less.

The first assumption is clearly wrong. The space program's fiscal 1979 budget outlay of some \$4.4 billion is dwarfed by HEW's \$180

billion. "The entire space program costs each American roughly the same as a six-pack of beer," says a NASA spokesman.

As for the second assumption, what is significant is that the public believes that the amount of useful knowledge derived from space research is simply not worth the billions it costs.

This popular notion is also shared by many in Congress, where NASA goes begging each year. The annual NASA budget is still some 20 per cent less, in absolute terms, than it was 15 years ago, when its \$5.2 billion budget was worth the equivalent of about \$12 billion to \$13 billion today.

Patrick Marshall is a PNS correspondent. Art Kleiner is an editor of the Whole Earth Catalog and a freelance science writer.

THE DC BOOKSHELF

WASHINGTON: Constance Green's Pulitzer Prize-winning two volume history of Washington is now available in paperback for only \$7.95. The basic book on DC history. \$7.95

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SECRET CITY: Constance Green's history of black Washington. A highly readable trip through the city's black past. \$3.50.

HEALING RESOURCES: A comprehensive guide to alternative therapy, preventative medicine and holistic health practices in the area. \$5.95

ANSWERS: Susan Meehan's widely praised guide to community resources in DC. Where to go for help, how to deal with various problems etc. Truly useful. Send \$4.95

STATEHOOD T-SHIRT: Light blue with dark blue lettering. Reads "End Capital Punishment. Support DC Statehood." "DC Gazette" in small letters below. State size: S,M,L \$4.75 (25178)

STATEHOOD BUMPER STICKER: Same legend as above. \$2.50 (251782)

WASHINGTON'S MOST FAMOUS MURDER STORIES: Tom Kelly's collection of tales of some of the city's most famous murders. Was \$3.95 now only \$2.35 (101781)

NON-SMOKERS GUIDE TO WASHINGTON: How to get around town without coughing. \$1.50 (591)

GOING PLACES WITH CHILDREN: Green Acre's School guide to planning successful trips in the area with children. 20% off at \$2. (2071)

CAPTIVE CAPITAL: Sam Smith tells the story of non-federal Washington. "Not only well worth reading, but it is the best book we are likely to read on Washington," — Bryce Nelson of the LA Times. "An excellent gift," — Bill Rasberry in the Washington Post. "Must reading," — Afro American. "A joy to read" — Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune. \$10 500-4-1

BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS: The fascinating tale of DC's only true political boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3 (30-18-1)

THE POTOMAC: Frederick Cuyler's fine book on the history of the Potomac River Valley will broaden your understanding of the area. 20% off at \$3.96. (15-7-1)

YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON: A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95. (15-17-2)

JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON: Drawn for the bicentennial and now available for 40% off. \$1.50 (500-76-1)

FACTORY OUTLET GUIDE TO DC, MD & VA: How to get things cheaply around here at factory outlets. \$2.95

TOWPATH GUIDE TO THE C&O: Georgetown-Seneca. 40% off. \$1.80.

ZOO BOOK: Photo-filled book on what's in the National Zoo and how it's cared for. 60% off list price. \$2

C&O OLD PICTURE ALBUM: 40% off list price. \$2.95

Yet despite the actual decrease in NASA's purchasing power, space scientists believe they are producing more basic and practical scientific knowledge today than a decade ago when they had more dollars that bought twice as much.

In those days, scientists explain, the main impulse of the space program was to put a man on the moon. In terms of the actual scientific knowledge about the universe which derived from that feat, the costs were great.

Today's space program is no longer driven so much by the egocentric impulse as it is by the desire to explore the science of space. And that exploration, according to many experts, has resulted in an incalculable wealth of new scientific knowledge that is beginning to throw light not only on the dark universe, but perhaps more importantly, on the earth and mankind itself.

In effect, scientists are now looking far off into space in order to get a better look at ourselves.

"The fruits of our efforts in space have been enormous," says Courtney Stadd, Policy Director of the National Space Institute. "The knowledge we've gained has affected everything, from our theories about the origins of life on earth to the new foam padding that protects high school football players. It seems that the further we get from earth, the more we find out about ourselves." Boston University microbiologist Dr. Lynn Margulis agrees that space research has worked some profound changes, especially within her own field. "Before we could compare our own planet to others," she explained, "we weren't really able to appreciate the importance of the role microorganisms play in our environment. What we've learned has forced major changes in our views."

Thanks to the 1975 Viking probe of Mars, Margulis says, scientists have a new appreciation for the role that microscopic life plays in the universe.

"We have now come to realize that microorganisms are a crucial part of this system," says Margulis. "The chemical gases taken in and released by microorganisms over the last three billion years have regulated the temperature and chemical content of the earth's atmosphere, making it possible for more complex life to evolve on our planet. We might not have noticed this for some time had we not been able to contrast Earth with other planets like Mars," which lacked any signs of microorganisms.

Awareness of the important role played by microorganisms has caused many scientists to express concern about the impact increased pollution may have on their regulatory effects and, consequently the planet's ecological stability. This October, a group of interdisciplinary scientists met to discuss such implications at a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sponsored workshop.

"Overlooking the effects of microorganisms on Earth will one day seem as ignorant as trying to treat a disease without knowing about bacteria or viruses," predicted Margulis.

In another research effort, at NASA's Ames Research Laboratory near San Francisco, other scientists are attempting to turn

LETTERS CONT'D

the decision-makers of both Blacks and Jews to begin to build bridges of understanding as Americans, and Americans who have a common American heritage in the long fight against the forces of repression and discrimination. This is going to take much work and much, much time.

P.J. GOLDRICK
Washington DC



this increased understanding of microorganisms back out to space. According to Ames Program Director John Billingham, our increasing knowledge about these basic forms of life may help us to predict where we might find life elsewhere.

"While no living microorganisms have been found in space," says Billingham, "the basic chemicals needed to create them are there. There's no reason to assume that what happened on earth didn't happen in other solar systems as well."

Accordingly, scientists at Ames are continually monitoring transmissions from spectroscopes on space probes in an attempt to detect concentrations of these chemicals.

"It's a back and forth process," says Billingham. "What we find out there teaches us more about Earth, and what we learn about Earth helps us in further space research."

Furthermore, as Billingham points out, space research is not only teaching us about our environment, but also about ourselves as a life form. One example of this is a current Ames project examining the effects of weightlessness on the human body.

Originally initiated to help prepare astronauts for space flights, the program is now generating new theories of the effects of gravity on the design of our bodies.

"Astronauts, when weightless, temporarily grow two or three inches in height because their spine straightens," says project director Dr. Harold Sandler. "When we experiment with animals in low gravity over several generations, they get different muscles and their bones become thick in different places."

According to Dr. Sandler, these observations, and many others, have added greatly to our understanding of why the human skeleton is organized the way it is, and the ways in which our bodies may change should we eventually live under other conditions.

In addition to studies of gravity, manned space flights have given birth to a host of new scientific fields. Among these is the field of space medicine.

Because of the stresses placed on the human body by the extremes of space flight, medical

DOWN ON DEMONSTRATIONS

You still use a lot of space reporting all those demonstrations. How much good (i.e. human well being) does all this achieve?

When one adds up all the dollars spent in paper, printing, postage, office work, advertising, one wonders how much education in creative alternative methods it could produce. When one adds up all the calories of human energy that goes into these demonstrations one imagines how much reading, and action, that would add up to, in creating sound alternatives to the evils being protested.

A lone poster in a Washington demonstration made a lot of sense: NO SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS HERE! THE GOVERNMENT IS THE PROBLEM.

Domination, hierarchy, compulsion, centralization is the problem. Let's replace the energy of demonstrations by planning, demonstrating and practicing de-centralist solutions.

MILDRED J LOOMIS
School of Living
York, Pa.

research teams have had to learn a great deal about everything from heart functions to sleep patterns. And, not only has space medicine given us valuable knowledge about the body, its technology has benefitted us in immediate and important ways.

"From sensors that measure brain pressure to improved pacemakers, from instantaneous blood analyzers to electronic muscle stimulators, space research has provided a gold mine of important technology," says National Space Institute official Stadd.

For every dollar NASA spends, Stadd points out, there is a return of 6 to 7 dollars in usable technology. "That's better return rate than any other agency in the government has," he says.

For many, however, the most important rewards of our ventures into space are not so tangible. According to former astronaut Edgar Mitchell, we are now in the midst of a second Copernican revolution, and the changes being brought on by it may be far more significant than those of the first.

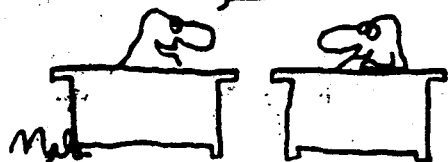
"To physically go out into space," muses Mitchell, "to look back at Earth and see it as an insignificant little toy can really change one's perspective. By journeying out and looking back we see both Earth and ourselves in a different light."

To an extent, says Mitchell, who now heads the Institute of Noetic Sciences in San Francisco, the space program has made philosophers of us all. "It used to be that only philosophers and scientists could rise above it all and see our world in its larger context. Now, through photos and television coverage of our space flights and probes, we've all had to deal with a shift in our conceptions."

According to Mitchell, his own experience of being the sixth man to walk on the moon had a profound effect on his view of the world and of our role in the universe. "When I looked back and saw the Earth I realized just how blinded—how earth-centered—we are. I realized that if we are to survive the challenges facing us now and in the future, we are going to have to make some changes in the way we see ourselves."

© PNS

WELL, BOMAN, WHAT BUREAUCRATIC NIGHTMARE SHOULD WE PERPETUATE TODAY?



The Necessity Defence

JOHN OGULNIK

WITH growing numbers of anti-nuclear protesters being arrested, the courts can be expected to serve as an increasingly important forum for the escalating national debate on nuclear power.

Already, anti-nuclear activists who have engaged in civil disobedience have succeeded, in a limited way, in putting nuclear power on trial in conjunction with their own cases.

In a few recent cases, anti-nuclear defendants have managed to employ a courtroom tactic that anti-war protestors had tried in vain to use a decade ago: the use of the defense of necessity.

Under that plea, defendants must show the jury that they disobeyed the law (usually by trespassing or obstructing traffic) to protect the public from a grave danger, much as a passerby might break into a burning house to save a child. Where this argument has been made, expert testimony on issues of nuclear power safety has been introduced, heard by juries and reported in the press.

John Thorne, a San Jose, Ca., attorney, sought to defend "dozens and dozens" of draft resisters and anti-war activists by arguing that their participation in an undeclared war in Vietnam would make them war criminals. Thorne said to his knowledge no judge allowed this necessity defense during the anti-war movement. But in anti-nuclear cases, three judges this year have accepted it—a major legal breakthrough that Thorne believes might now be expanded to other civil disobedience areas.

In the first trial, 20 people who had been arrested at Commonwealth Edison's Zion plant in Illinois were acquitted. The second, involving 50 arrested in a sit-in at the Comanche Peak plant at Glen Rose, Texas, resulted in a hung jury. In the third trial, one of 11 defendants was found guilty, one not guilty. The jury could reach no decision on the other nine. The defendants had been arrested at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Plant near Sacramento for blocking an entrance at the time that plant's twin was running out of control near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

To find any defendant not guilty under such a defense the jury had to believe that:

- the defendants acted to preserve life or property;
- a reasonable person under similar circumstances would have reasonably believed that the defendant's actions were necessary to protect life or property;
- the defendants believed their actions were necessary;
- the danger to life and property was substantial and in the immediate future.

The Elk Grove jury determined that only defendant Mike Gillogly had met all the conditions. Gillogly testified that he had organized rallies against nuclear power, had worked on California's unsuccessful Nuclear Safeguards Initiative in 1976, had written to Congressional representatives, and finally had worked for anti-nuclear candidates for the board of the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District. SMUD is the public utility licensed to operate Rancho Seco. Gillogly was one of only a few defendants residing in Sacramento.

Unlike Gillogly, the other defendants had not exhausted every avenue of protest before climbing the fence, according to the jury; therefore, their actions were found not reasonable. But in all nine cases at least one

juror held out for acquittal. The one defendant found guilty did not appear to testify on his own behalf; therefore, the jury felt they did not know just what his motives were.

Leonard Post, an attorney for the Rancho Seco defendants, says trials where the issue of nuclear power can be raised become an "educational tool and political forum," especially in communities surrounding nuclear power plants where the population may never have been exposed to the anti-nuclear side.

In all three trials, considerable testimony was given by the defendants themselves, who told how they came to oppose nuclear power and why they engaged in acts of civil disobedience. Experts testified about possible accidents at nuclear plants, about the effects of low level radiation and the nuclear fuel cycle. In the Rancho Seco trial, the prosecution brought in pro-nuclear experts to counter the testimony of defense witnesses.

After the eight-week Elk Grove trial, one juror commented, "I'm afraid of nuclear power...I really had a hand out to the kids...they really stuck to their guns...I'm sorry I didn't bring in a verdict for them, I really am."

Boyd Bradley, a prospective juror who can see the huge Rancho Seco cooling towers from his house said before the trial that he considered the defendants "a bunch of whippersnappers out there creating antics that weren't necessary in my opinion."

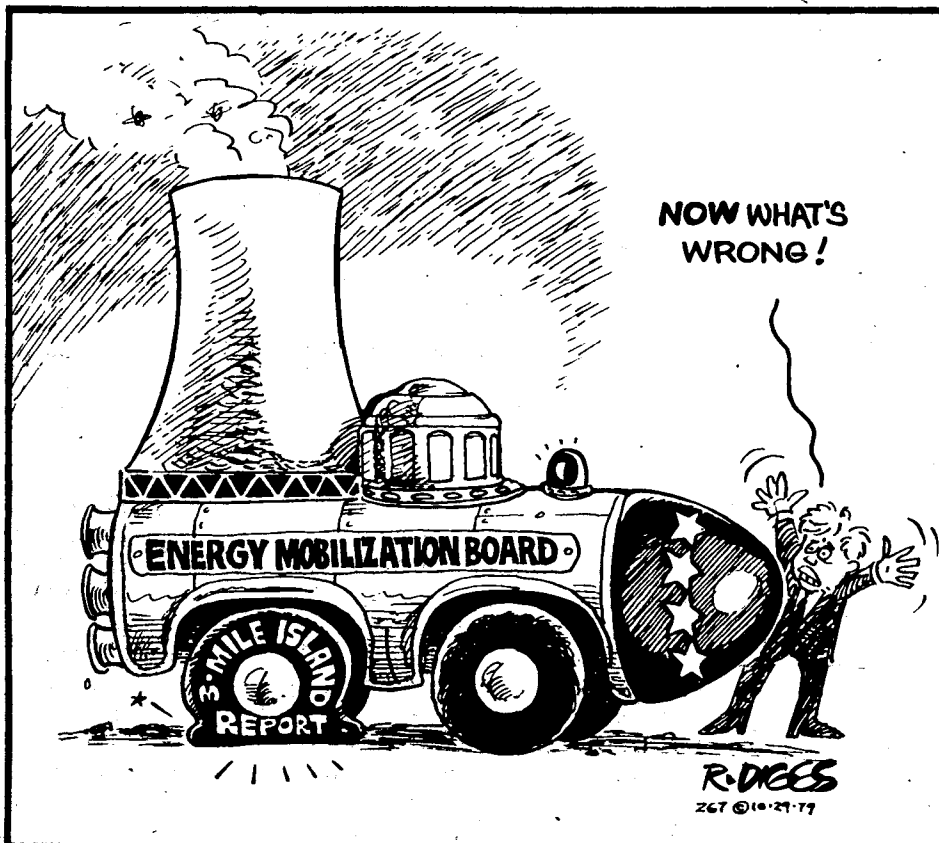
He attended the trial every day pretending he was juror and refusing to come to any conclusions until all the evidence was in.

By the end, Bradley's opinion of both the defendants and nuclear power had changed. "I won't go so far as to say I'm anti-nuclear, but I'm no longer pro-nuclear by any stretch of the imagination," he said.

Jurors in the Zion trial made similar comments. The strongest came from a juror who said that two days into the week-long trial "I was ready to picket with them."

Despite this relative success of the defense of necessity, however, many anti-nuclear activists find it a dubious tactic. "It's so dependent on the whim of the judge," said one attorney close to the New England Clamshell Alliance. Also, the costs of this court tactic are enormous and cases can drag on for many months, tying up people who might be working in other ways in the movement.

The New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled against the use of necessity defense by nuclear protestors. In Massachusetts and

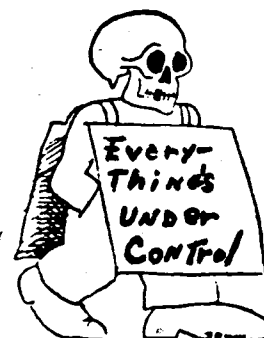


California, higher courts are expected to determine its validity.

Clamshell member Roy Morrison said that in future arrests, unconditional release will be sought. "It's saying to the courts, either you jail a large number of people for a long time, or you release them." Morrison adds that they will not promise to return for trial if released. About a third of the 1,000 protesters arrested in October's Wall Street demonstration refused to give their names and were booked and given court appearance dates as John and Jane Does. If they fail to show up for court, their arrests are unlikely. © PNS

HOW DO YOU list the child-rearing years on a resume? Here's how one Washington woman did it: '1962-1978: My experiences during these years were in household organization and child-rearing. These assignments involved me in budgeting, social planning, counselling, education, civic volunteerism and general transportation.'

A STUDY OF 622 students at Rutgers University found that although students are talking more about sex, few of them seem to be doing much about it. Fifty-six percent of the men and fifty percent of the women questioned said they were not currently having a sexual relationship with anyone, and only eight percent of the men and five percent of the women said they had had intercourse with more than one person. The study also found that of the men who claimed to be sexually experienced, thirty percent said they had had sex less than 11 times in the preceding year. The same was true of the 'sexually experienced' women.



The Dawn of a New Society ...or just another flaky idea?

Henry George and the land tax movement

by Anne G. Witte

Imagine, for a moment, a vision of the ideal society. Cities are the thriving centers of production. Unemployment is unheard of. There are no decaying buildings or ugly, empty lots — only abundant and well-maintained housing.

In the outlying areas, there is no speculation driving up land prices, and no senseless leapfrog development threatening the countryside. Farmers are not forced to sell out to investors, who would hold on to land for later development and huge profits.

Imagine, now, that this utopian scenario is to be had for the asking — and one change in the property tax system. Far-fetched? Not according to a number of people around the country who almost religiously promote their idea of salvation through taxation: a tax on land, and land alone.

These land taxers do not exactly represent a significant majority of voters anywhere (in their own estimation, they are "few, but active"). But recently their cause has seemed to find more sympathetic ears, especially among economists and government officials who see the need for drastic post-Proposition 13 property tax reform. And their promises of economic bliss are so appealing that we might do well to take a close look at their proposal and what, if anything, it would accomplish.

The land tax movement began, in this country at least, with Henry George, who one century ago this year published a work titled *Progress and Poverty*, and subtitled, rather formidably, *An Inquiry into the Cause of Industrial Depressions and of the Increase of Want with Increase of Wealth... the Remedy*.

Stated briefly, George was unhappy with the unequal distribution of wealth, which he perhaps somewhat simplistically attributed to the then huge, monopolistic holdings of land by timber, railroad, and other interests. Land, he reasoned, is a natural resource which rightly belongs to the people, and ideally, private ownership in land should be completely abolished. Barring that, however, land could simply be "leased" to private interests in exchange for a very high tax to be put to public uses.

If all of this sounds somewhat socialist, it is, so far. But George was not so much a socialist as a libertarian, who believed that what is not land is the product of human resourcefulness, and as such should not be taxed.

In other words, the income tax should be abolished, since income is the result of working; the social security tax should be rescinded since it is also a payroll tax. There should be no sales tax, because consumer items are the product of some human effort (even if they are machine-made, the machine was designed and built by humans), and so on. Hence, the sobriquet for his followers: the "Single Taxers."

That, of course, was one hundred years ago. Not many of even the staunchest of the present-day Georgists are advocating abolishing all taxes but the tax on land (although they are fond of pointing out what they call the "non-neutrality" of other taxes — for instance, the way the income tax discourages us all from working). But for the most part, the Georgists today are apparently content to focus attention on the property tax, which they see as essentially two taxes: the tax on land and the tax on improvements.

Naturally, the property tax on land meets with the Georgists' approval. But the tax on improvements is a tax on human achievement: a landowner toils to build a lovely skyscraper on his or her property, and is rewarded with a property tax increase. A suburban homeowner slaves to put in a swimming pool in the backyard, and is hit with a higher property tax bill.

Now, most observers might say that it is fair to tax these improvements, since they obviously enhance the value of the property — just as most observers would probably agree that it is fair to tax income, since income usually means some ability to pay taxes. But the Georgists seem to think that taxes dictate all human behavior, and claim that the tax on property improvements discourages people from making the improvements. The potential skyscraper builder would do better, and does, according to the Georgists, to simply let his or her piece of property degenerate into disuse. The homeowner thinking of putting in a pool would do better to leave the yard overgrown with cacti.

On the other hand, the Georgists argue, if the tax on land alone were increased substantially, taxes on homeowners might actually decrease, since the burden would be shifted to commercial property, which is generally more valuable land. Commercial property owners, then, would be encouraged to develop their property to the fullest (read "most profitable") use, in order to raise enough money to pay the taxes.

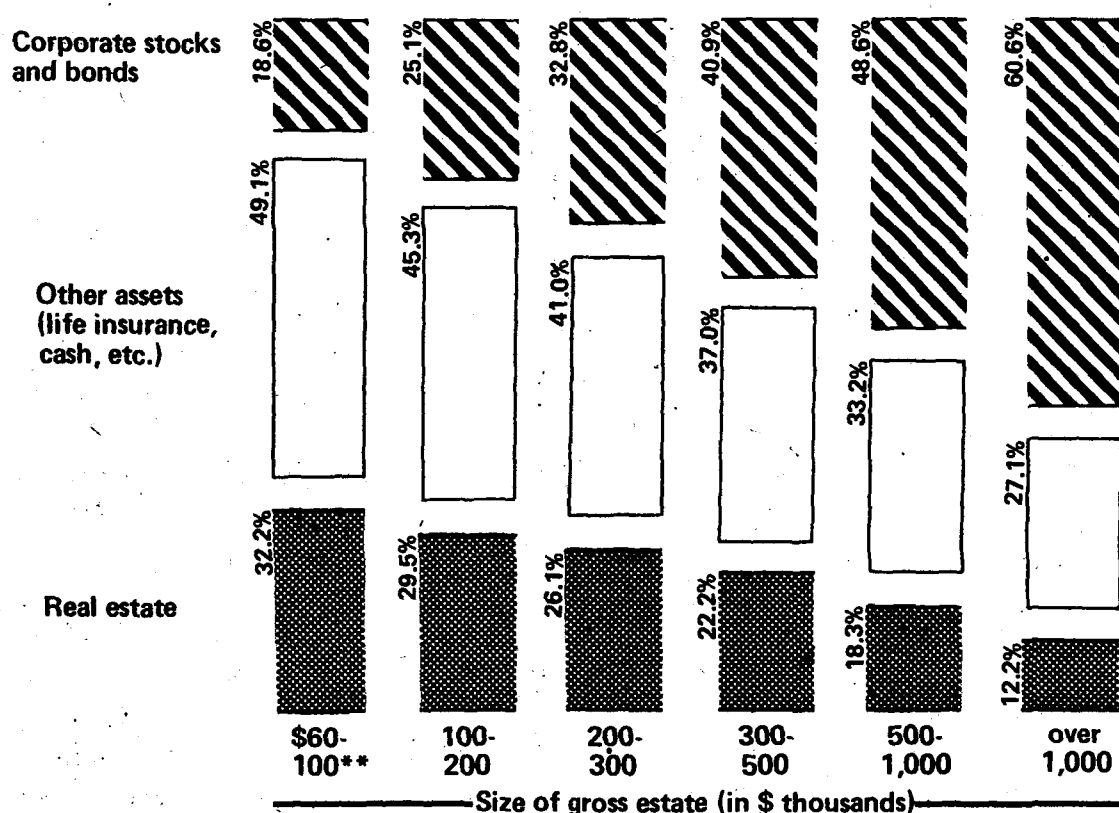
Aside from the question of whether unbridled development is desirable, there are a number of serious problems with the Georgists' proposal.

First, their view of a world shaped entirely by taxes is a far cry from reality. Taxes, as a cost of doing business, obviously figure in investment and development decisions — but only in conjunction with many other factors, including zoning laws, actual demand for development, an area's building code restrictions, rent control laws, and the availability of capital, to mention just a few. In other words, it is obviously overly optimistic to count on a sudden upsurge in urban renewal simply because of a change in the tax system.

There are other problems as well. Property tax assessments would become even less precise than they are currently, since it is often virtually impossible to separate land value from improvement value. Assessors would not be able to rely on income capitalization for appraising land, since it is usually not the land which produces income, but the structure on it. Similarly, assessors could not base appraisals on the sale prices of comparable property, because land is usually not sold separately from the improvement on it.

It is with assessments, too, that the Georgist mandate of not taxing human resourcefulness breaks down. If someone owns a vacant lot in an urban area, for instance, and another property owner builds a restaurant next door, the value of the vacant lot is obviously enhanced, if only because of its new potential as a parking lot. But if the value of the vacant lot goes up, property values in the area in general increase, which means that, unavoidably, the owner of the restaurant will receive a tax increase.

Where is the wealth? Composition of gross U.S. estates*



*Estate tax returns filed in 1973

**Estates valued at less than \$60,000 were not required to file estate tax returns

Source: IRS Statistics of Income 1973, Estate Tax Returns

Perhaps the most serious problem with the land tax proposal, however, is the havoc it wreaks with the principle of the property tax as a tax on wealth. It is true that the current property tax leaves much to be desired as an effective wealth tax, since as wealth increases real estate represents a smaller and smaller portion of that wealth (see chart). But the current

tax on land and improvements reaches at least part of the value of corporations, a proxy of sorts for stock ownership, which is the most concentrated form of wealth. In addition, property improvements often generate substantial income tax benefits. The current property tax recaptures at least a portion of the loss, but a strict land tax would not.

In spite of all of the problems with a land tax, however, it would probably be a study in futility to try to convince its supporters of the inefficacy of their idea. They have, it seems, seen a vision of a greater society. They have been promoting the vision and their formula for achieving it, for a century now, and are probably not about to give up. □

The Body Beat

THE LEAN AND hungry look is all the rage with joggers and cardiologists, but according to Dr. Reubin Andres of the National Institute on Aging, seventeen long-term health studies show that contrary to popular belief, death rates are not higher among the obese. He says this is true even of those who weighed in more than 30 pounds over their ideal weight. And Andres says, in fact, that several of his studies showed that people who were at slightly below their ideal weight had a higher mortality rate at every age than those who were moderately overweight.

A 1960 survey of five million Americans, conducted by a life insurance company, was the first link to obesity and higher death rates. Andres says, however, that the results of this survey were flawed, because all 17 of the studies conducted since prove that people who are slightly overweight may live longer.

FROM EXECUTIVE FITNESS NEWSLETTER: *Health officials agree that under circumstances of extreme [pollution] alert, it's wise for people with existing respiratory problems to take it easy. But as for the rest of us, we're better off in the long run to get up and get active. Dr. C.C. Patterson of the California Institute of Technology several years ago studied joggers forced to run in traffic. And while they inhaled more pollutants as they ran (by some 40%) they also excreted more. Tests following the runs showed that the joggers wound up with 21 percent less lead in their systems than a group of sedentaries used as a control.*

The Department of Transportation last year ran a similar study of cyclists. They found that after two months of pedaling 60 minutes a day in rush hour traffic, men on bikes contained less carbon monoxide in their blood than a group

of air-conditioned drivers. What exercise takes in, in other words, it also seems to toss out.

LIGHT SPECIALIST John Ott thinks that millions of Americans may be suffering from too little sunlight because they wear sunglasses. Otto claims that most sunglasses, particularly the cheaper kinds, filter out the normal everyday wavelengths of light vital to strength and stamina. This produces a condition known as mal-illumination. Otto reports that tests done with light-filtering lenses have found muscle strength losses of up to 45% in wearers. Contact lenses can also cause muscle weakness, especially the brown-tinted ones that filter out all but the very longest wavelengths.

EVEN SPERM is not as good as it used to be. A scientist with Florida State University says that chemical pollutants in industrialized countries may be causing a drop in the sperm count and subsequent fertility potential of men. Dr. Ralph Dougherty says a 1929 study of American men put the mid-point value of sperm density at 90 million sperm per milliliter of semen; a 1974 study put it at 65 million; and a study recently conducted by Dougherty showed the median value at an even lower 60 million per milliliter. Dougherty told a meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington that while the cause for the sperm drop was not certain, "toxic substances" in the environment were the principal suspects.

A REPORT IN THE American Medical Association's journal says recent medical studies have discovered that workers, doctors and patients who spend long hours in windowless rooms suffer from higher rates of mental illness. According to the report, the problem is not a lack of ventilation or illumination in rooms without windows, but an absence of an outlet for "human visual curiosity."

The Idea Mill

Neighborhood Solutions for Crime Prevention

Few community issues provoke a stronger response than the problem of crime. When it hits, individuals and property owners, rich and poor of all races agree that something should be done. Until recently, the grassroots response to crime meant needling police and courts with demands for increased patrols, tougher sentencing or civilian review boards. Lately, however, a few communities have begun dealing with crime on their own. The results so far are a mixed-bag of successes, failures, promising efforts and potential trouble spots.

People who have had to deal with police or courts, whether they win or lose in the traditional sense of guilt or innocence, often find the experience alienating and discouraging. A victim of a purse snatching, describing her experience in a New York newspaper, said that despite her intent to see the offender punished, neither the process nor the punishment proved satisfying. "After the case dragged on for months," she said, "All I really wanted was for the kid to say 'I'm sorry.' But I never got to look him in the eye, much less talk to him."

In a more academic sense, criminology professor Nils Christie says that when a dispute reaches a court, the victim and defendant totally lose control over the case; it becomes the "property" of the lawyers and the judge. According to Christie, the

community at-large is robbed of the chance to examine the conflict as a symptom of a profound community problem, and is denied the opportunity to resolve that problem.

In some foreign countries, communities maintain much greater local control over their conflicts. Tanzania has a court system that starts with citizen conflict-solving gatherings in rural villages. In Cuba, a more formal local court system called Popular Tribunals works in both rural and urban neighborhoods. The tribunals, run by residents, deal with social problems, such as those caused by overcrowded housing, rather than crimes. The sessions, held in the evening, are often jammed, and, according to one U.S. attorney who has studied the tribunals, they tend to make courts popularly accepted institutions rather than tools of coercion.

There are vast differences, of course, between Tanzania, Cuba and the United States in terms of economics, size and social life. But despite these differences, a number of experiments in this country are putting responsibility for crime control on the neighborhood level. These programs do not just assist police and court efforts through block watches or seminars in effective door and window locks. They create mechanisms in which residents themselves can help resolve conflicts with their neighbors.

The San Francisco Experiment

One such experiment receiving considerable attention around the country is the San Francisco Community Board Program (149 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103, 415/552-1250). Begun in 1977, the program is run completely by local residents in two San Francisco neighborhoods, Visitacion Valley and Bernal Heights. Serving a total population of 40,000 people, the (please turn to next page)



two boards last year resolved approximately 100 cases ranging from burglaries and assaults to housing and consumer disputes.

The boards' primary purpose is crime prevention through conciliation of disputes. They don't necessarily prevent a dispute from happening, but community boards can prevent a dispute from escalating into a crime which eventually involves the police and courts.

Community residents of various backgrounds and income levels serve as panelists to hear disputes. Each has received training in problem solving and communication, but the panelists don't pass judgments of guilt or innocence; they help the parties open up and talk freely about the dispute so that they can reach a resolution on their own.

"We designed a dispute/responsibility process," said organizer Ray Shonholtz, "so that in resolving a case, we do not take it away from the parties that have the problem. They have to take responsibility to work toward resolving it themselves."

The Community Boards will not take a case unless both parties agree to participate. No cases are solicited from the police or courts, and 75 per cent of the cases come directly from the disputants. The Boards have no legal authority or sanction. No records are kept, and no lawyers are needed (in fact, professional participation is discouraged). If either party is dissatisfied with the outcome, he or she can take the case to court.

Shonholtz estimates that a full-time community board serving a population of 75,000 people would cost between \$85,000 and \$100,000 a year to operate. For the first year of the San Francisco program, Shonholtz raised \$150,000 from private foundations. The program recently received a \$20,000 grant from the National League of Cities and ACTION, but Shonholtz says he does not pursue government funding because of the sponsor's demands and evaluation measures involved. Although future funding is uncertain, the two community boards are so popular that plans are now being drawn for community boards in two other San Francisco neighborhoods.

Portland, Pittsburg Programs

Similar although less ambitious mediation projects are underway in Portland and Pittsburg. The Neighborhood Mediation Pilot Project in Portland began last June as a one-year CETA sponsored demonstration. The Project has three centers in middle-income neighborhoods. Each center costs about \$75,000 to operate. More than 500 cases have been handled, with 80 to 90 per cent settled by conciliation rather than formal mediation. Relatively minor disputes handled by the centers include harassment, pet control, trash, noise, petty theft, trespassing, minor property damage, physical confrontation and housing disputes. About half the cases involve alleged criminal activity, including disorderly conduct and minor assaults.

The centers get referrals from 60 different sources, mostly city and social service agencies. About a quarter of the cases come from law enforcement agencies, and Legal Aid offices are the primary source for private referrals.

The Portland project is sponsored and monitored by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission (**Corbett Building, Room 312, Portland OR 97204, 503/248-4187**). Community mediators are recruited from the neighborhoods surrounding each center and are screened and trained by the Commission's staff. The project has recently won a six-month extension from CETA, and the Portland City Council has voted to support one of the centers when the pilot-project funds run out.

The Pittsburg program, called Community Association for Mediation, is privately run and works more informally than either the San Francisco or Portland programs. The program has no centralized office and holds meetings in people's homes. It conducts on-site mediation, and although its goal is to reconcile disputes, it takes a more active third party role than other mediation programs, proposing resolutions that are mutually beneficial to the parties involved. Community Association for Mediation (**511 Junilla Street, Pittsburg PA 15219 412/621-3050**) works on trust which it has built up over the years. As the city gears up for school desegregation next year, the Association has been invited to develop a forum mediating desegregation-related problems for students and parents.

Another informal dispute-solving process has been working in Chicago for the past 40 years. The Back of the Yards Council

(1751 West 47th Street, Chicago IL 60609 312/523-4416) co-founded by Saul Alinsky, resolves disputes as part of an overall program on housing, health and other social issues. A typical case, organizers say, involved a homeowner who was steaming because a neighbor blocked a driveway with house painting materials. A minor problem, but one that could easily escalate into a major property destruction case. The angry homeowner contacted the Council, which then brought the homeowner and neighbor together to mutually resolve the problem.

Block Watch Associations

Another community crime control project—the block watch association—is more closely linked with police and court efforts and has had mixed results. Successful block watch programs, where a neighborhood organizes to make residents more aware of crime and to report it quickly, operate in Philadelphia, Detroit and Hartford neighborhoods. In some programs, burglaries have dropped by 40 per cent or more and robberies have been cut almost in half. A common situation, however, is that block watch associations form in a burst of enthusiasm and then die out. One reason is that it is hard to maintain active participation without numerous meetings or a strong support organization.

A variation of the block watch has often worked successfully with a specific kind of community dealing with a specific crime, such as women organizing to fight rape. Programs such as Community Action Strategy to Stop Rape (**PO Box 62084, Columbus OH 43202**) rely on volunteer citizens rather than professional agencies, and concentrate on rape prevention. The key to success, say its organizers, is creating an awareness of the issue that removes the "psychological" as well as physical darkness which leads to crimes like rape.

Community Control Versus Vigilantism

While the intent of these kinds of efforts is admirable, citizen action on crime also has a potential danger. In New York City, for example, tension between Hassidic Jews and blacks, coupled with poor response from police, has led to well-organized and well-financed citizen patrols, sometimes with two-way radios and their own emergency vehicles. In many situations, such as traffic accidents, these citizen patrols beat New York police to the scene. But in situations with racial overtones, the citizen patrols have sometimes added to the tension. Likewise, a citizen group called the South Boston Marshalls formed radio-equipped auto patrols during Boston's school desegregation four years ago. The Marshalls said they were simply protecting their neighborhood, but most blacks in the city interpreted the patrols as a warning to stay out of South Boston.

Another variation of community crime control efforts has ties with both citizens and conventional agencies dealing with crime. In Atlanta, Los Angeles and Kansas City, for example, pilot Neighborhood Justice Centers were established in 1977 to ease the burden on the traditional criminal justice system. Programs such as the Urban Court in Boston and the New York Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution Dispute Center can also be characterized as agency-based, even though trained citizens work in the programs.

These kinds of programs tend to be more trusted by criminal justice professionals, but community-based crime control advocates say they are reactive, rather than preventative mechanisms.

"It seems to me," said Ray Shonholtz of the San Francisco Community Boards, "that a community program serious about crime prevention would want those people active in the community to review the cases before they escalated to a point of violence that necessitated law enforcement intervention. The agency model could pick up after the community model if both were operating in a city. The two are not antithetical, they just have different approaches and different interests. The agency-based is a helper to the justice system, the community model is more preventative."

RESOURCES

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE, 1000 Wisconsin Ave. NW, DC 20007 (202-333-5700)
Has a LEAA project to help community groups prepare proposals and to provide technical assistance to funded groups.

GRASSROOTS CITIZEN DISPUTE RESOLUTION CLEARINGHOUSE, 4401 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213 (412-621-3050) Quarterly journal and organizers handbook.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ANTI-CRIME PROGRAMS, LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION, DC 20531

THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

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JOY OF COOKING: Best selling US cookbook. 4300 recipes. \$4.95

VEGETARIAN EPICURE: \$4.95

EATING IN AMERICA: Dietary goals of the US; the report of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. \$1.95

THE TAMING OF THE CANDY MONSTER: A cookbook to help get your kids to eat less sugary, salty, junk food, without sacrificing convenience or good taste. \$3.95

THE WHOLE KITCHEN CATALOG: A guide by the editors of Consumer's Reports to creating a more beautiful, comfortable and convenient kitchen. \$7.95.

BUSY PEOPLE'S DECIDEDLY DELICIOUS FAST FOODBOOK: Any meal sandwiches, blender quenchers, one-pan plans, refrigerator readies and more. Simple but tasty recipes. \$4.95

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WAGE THE ENERGY WAR AT HOME: A well-illustrated, easy-to-understand guide to improving the energy efficiency of your house. By Joseph C. Davis and Claxton Walker. \$9.95

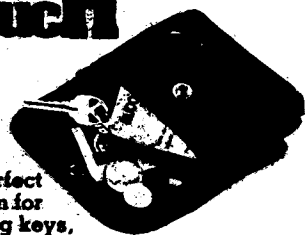
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